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PAGE 01	CARACA	12433	271230Z
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E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: MARR, PGOV, ASEC, PREL, VE

SUBJECT: SITREP NO. 2/ ATTEMPTED COUP IN CARACAS

CAP RE-ASSURES NATION THAT THE SITUATION IS UNDER CONTROL

1. PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ IN AN INTERVIEW WITH TELEVISION CHANNEL 10, AND SHORTLY THEREAFTER A RADIO INTERVIEW ON "RADIO RUMBOS", CLAIMED THAT THE SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY WAS UNDER CONTROL. THE PRESIDENT ASKED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 CARACA 12433 271230Z
THE VENEZUELAN PEOPLE TO GO TO WORK AS NORMAL. (NOTE:
RADIO CARACAS, THOUGH, IS ADVISING PEOPLE TO REMAIN AT
HOME.)

2. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT ARMY REBELS LINKED TO THE MBR AND CIVILIANS FROM "BANDERA ROJA" (RED FLAG) AND "TERCER CAMINO" (THIRD WAY) HAD SEIZED THE "TECHNICAL CENTER" WHERE THREE VENEZUELAN TELEVISION STATIONS TRANSMIT THEIR SIGNALS. CHANNEL TEN, HOWEVER, WAS NOT AFFECTED SINCE IT DOES NOT TRANSMIT FROM THIS AREA. REBELS HAD ALSO SEIZED THE COMMAND SECTION OF THE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON DATE/CASE ID: 08 AUG 2006 200503206

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AIRBASE OF LA LIBERTADOR IN MARACAY, BUT THE BASE WAS NOW SURROUNDED BY LOYAL TROOPS. LA CARLOTA AIRBASE, IN CARACAS, WAS ALSO SEIZED. THREE MIRAGE JETS FROM LA LIBERTADOR OVERFLEW THE CAPITAL (NOTE: AS OF THE SENDING OF THIS SITREP, TWO MIRAGE JETS ARE STILL CIRCLING EASTERN CARACAS, OVER LA CARLOTA AIRBASE, PASSING CLOSE TO THE EMBASSY. UNIDENTIFIED GUNFIRE IS ALSO TAKING PLACE CLOSE TO THE EMBASSY.)

3. THE PRESIDENT CLAIMED THAT THE POPULATION DID NOT SUPPORT THE GROUP, ALTHOUGH A FEW CIVILIANS DID SHOOT THREE SOLDIERS NEAR THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. HE ASSURED THE COUNTRY THAT THE ARMED FORCES REMAINED LOYAL AND WOULD ENSURE THAT CALM WOULD BE RESTORED. HE ALSO SAID THAT MILITARY INTELLIGENCE HAD BECOME AWARE LATE YESTERDAY THAT SOMETHING WAS GOING TO HAPPEN AND WAS ABLE TO PREVENT CERTAIN ACTIONS (HE DID NOT SPECIFY WHICH).

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PAGE 03

CARACA 12433 271230Z

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